

## TEXAS ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS (TAKS)

### BLUEPRINT FOR GRADE 11 EXIT LEVEL SOCIAL STUDIES

Objectives	Proposed Number of Items
Objective 1—History	13
Objective 2—Geography	9
Objective 3—Economic and Social Influences	13
Objective 4—Political Influences	9
Objective 5—Social Studies Skills	11
<b>Total number of items</b>	<b>55</b>

#### Curriculum Rationale

Objective 1 consists of 17 TEKS student expectations that focus on issues and events in American history from the colonial era to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Examples of such issues and events include the establishment of the United States as an independent nation, the emergence of the United States as a world power during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the role of the United States in World War I, World War II, and the Cold War. The student expectations in Objective 1 cover content that spans a long period of American history and therefore require a relatively large number of items per test (13) to measure fully.

Objective 2 focuses on geography and consists of content- and skills-based world geography, world history, and U.S. History TEKS student expectations. Nine items per test are required to measure both the content and skills within this objective.

Objective 3 contains 17 TEKS student expectations that focus on economic and social issues in American history from the colonial era to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Examples of such issues include the rapid growth of U.S. industry during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the causes and effects of the Great Depression, and the development of the Civil Rights movement during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These student expectations cover content that spans a long period of American history and therefore require a relatively large number of items per test (13) to measure fully.

Objective 4 focuses on the development of representative government in the United States as well as on political influences in American history from the colonization era to the present. Since there are fewer TEKS student expectations in this objective than in Objectives 1 and 3, nine items per test are sufficient to measure the content within this objective.

Objective 5 measures critical-thinking skills, which are included in the social studies curriculum beginning in kindergarten. If students are able to think critically, they will develop a greater capacity to understand the broad spectrum of social studies concepts

and information necessary to become informed citizens. As a result, the number of items included under this objective is comparatively large.